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OCTOBER 1986

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



O BEAT



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ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. Cost is 50¢ per month for non-members or a \$4.00 per year subscription. Permission is given to reprint articles or excerpts provided credit is given. Deadline for submission of articles is the 21st of the month. Classifieds accepted anytime.

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Giuseppe's Depot Restaurant at 10.5. Sierra Madre at 7:30 p.m. All amateurs and Interested parties are invited to attend.

Editor: Phil Somers VETARC, 1075 Allegheny Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80919 590-7136

BREETINGS FROM DON, KEGGJ Vice-President, PPRAA

Almost a year has passed since I took office to serve as your vice-president. I have enjoyed the challengs and have had lets of fun running the reffle each south, which seemed to be my primary duty.

We have experienced a few changes, 3 think, which for the east part have, if nothing also, generated a considerable amount of discussion (Mi Mi).

It makes me feel good to see people laugh and enjoy themselves and, at the same time, provide a service to mankind, not only in our community but throughout the world, with such projects as Novice classes and community fund raising walks, hiliclimbs, cross-country enduros, and emergency meather conditions, both locally and abroad.

I thank you all for the opportunity to be involved with some of the finest people in the world, those who have dedication, willingness, and desire to be of service and ask for nothing in return -- the fraternity of ham radio operators.

73. INX. Don. KEØGJ.



Frank Royball is the first graduate of Jim's (WA9ABB) Novice classes at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Congratulations to both Frank and Jim.

OCTOBER MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be held on Mednesday, October 8 at 7:30 PM at Siuseppe's Depot at #10 S. Sierra St. The tentative program is so tentative that you will have to attend the meeting to find out what it is.

"VIEW FROM THE PEAK"

by George Hinds, NSCIX/Ø

IT SURE WOULD HELP IF:

Folks putting out a call on repeaters (and on simplex, too) would announce the frequency or repeater they're on? In this day of scanning receivers, a call may go unanswered because you can't catch which repeater or simplex frequency the calling station was using.

On more than one occasion, at home and while mobile, I've heard a call, or part of a call, where someone possibly was looking for help or at least a conversation. Too late! The rig has begun scanning again and who knows where the caller was?

So, unless you're one of those rare birds who uses but one repeater, or a single simplex frequency, try to make a habit of stating where you are listening: completed contacts might just increase. In an emergency, it's doubly important!

WATCH FOR SIGNS POSSIBLY:

Showing up in the rear windows of your friendly neighborhood amateur radio operators' automobile, patterned after the now-familiar diamond shape yellow signs that remind you of "Baby On Board" or "Wife in Trunk."

These will read: "Take A Ham To Dinner" or "Don't Touch This Car - You May Suffer (RF) Burns" or "Hams Are Better Lovers" or ?????? Yesterday: bumper stickers; tomorrow: window signs - what will follow? (Perhaps a ticket and fine for obstructing vision?)

PICNICS ARE GREAT FUN:

And the PPRAA picnic on Sunday, Aug. 10th was no exception — but where were you? You were missed. About 25 of us gathered at Oak Stocktons' (KØROL) place south of Lake George for what turned out to be a most pleasant time — good food, cold drinks and good friends. While there were games such as horseshoes and olleyball available, it seemed everyone was content to take in the fresh mountain air, to eat, and to just relax and chat (and check out packet radio operation and

the multitude of hummingbirds feeding on the porch feeders). Thanks!, Oak, it was a fine day...

And on August 24th, the group from Pikes Peak FM Association held their annual picnic — it was at the home of Bud WBØTIB in Black Forest. Here about 80 guys, gals, and offspring gathered to feast on a wide variety of salads, hot dogs and hamburgers, and other goodies. The weather was perfect and test gear was available to check frequency, deviation and sensitivity. As might be expected, too many of us ate too much — but it was so—o—o good!

"GIGO: GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT

And that's what you find in repeater directories so often - in the sense that from 25 to 50% of the repeaters listed are not on the air, never have been on the air, and never will be on the air.

Just a look at the newest ARRL directory will indicate what is wrong: under "DENVER" on UHF repeaters you'll find over 40 listed — now check them out to see which are on the air. You'll find out that about two-thirds are — the rest are just listings, not real live repeaters. But someone, months or even years ago, said he would have a repeater operating and so the frequency is "reserved" and thus unavailable to be reassigned.

More frequencies reserved for what??? And the same is true for Colorado Springs and for most areas of the nation. Some amateur, years ago, had dreams of putting on a repeater - the dreams stayed just that: dreams - and though there is no repeater in sight, the frequency is lost to others. Multiply that by the hundreds — now you see why the Repeater Directory lists so many systems.

What can be done to free up this space? On July 12th the new repeater docket became the rule — and FCC held that decoordination of repeaters was just as essential as coordination. If these "non-repeaters" were deleted from directories, we'd have a more accurate guide to go by, a more compact directory, and coordinators would have frequencies at hand so as to re-coordinate active repeaters that now suffer interference such as is brought about by the 15kHz bandplan in

use in most states. With "non-repeaters" permanently squelched, there would be more frequency choices for active repeaters.

If this project started tomorrow, it would be overdue...for long unused frequency assignments are vexing problems for every council and coordinator.

AIRLINES NIX USE OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS

Some airlines, claiming in-flight use of computers by passengers might interfere with flight navigation equipment, have banned such use. This is despite assurances from the FAA that such computers are safe for such use. Some such airlines are People Express, KLM, Pacific Southwest Airlines and Lufthansa. So, if you are taking a trip soon and had ideas of taking your laptop with you, better check with the airline first. You can bet some airlines are jumpy since the Korean incident of 1983 when a Korean Air Lines aircraft was shot down for straying from course and ended up going over USSR territory.

ANOTHER BIRD-BRAINED IDEA FESTERING?

The proposal for non-amateur use of six-meters truly is an example of witless action — to create a public digital network between 52 and 54 mHz! Apparently the basis for the proposal is the seeming lack of use by amateurs — but did the proponents of the new scheme stop to consider why this band is "under-utilized" in its use in so many areas? Hardly...

Transmitters in this band would emit harmonics in the middle of the FM broadcast band at 102 to 104 mHz; further, since TV Channel 2 operates adjacent to this ham band, it is a sad, but proven, fact that interference problems would arise to TV stations from widespread use. Imagine the havoc potential from hordes of digital transmissions - what a problem for the already undermanned FCC. Let's hope this proposal gets the disposition from the Commission it richly deserves.

73, George, N8CIXØ

HAM LICENSING

VE Program, Colorado Springs

VE testing for the purpose of obtaining or upgrading an Amateur Radio Station /operator license, sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, will be conducted on Nov 15, 1986 at the First United Methodist Church located at 420 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springe, starting at 9:00 A.M. PRE-REGISTERED applicants and WALK-INS are welcomed.

Instructions:

- A. PRE-RESISTERED Applicants must mail:
 - 1. Completed current FCC fore 610,
 - 2. Photocopy of current license.
 - A check or money order for \$4.25 payable to ARRL/VEC.
 - The above must reach the volunteer examiner team contact by 10 Nov 1986.

Send application to our team contact:

Peter LaFouse - NøLA 5750 N. Meridian Rd. Peyton, CO 80831

- B. WALK-INS must bring to test site:
 - If currently licenced, your current licence.
 - 2. A photocopy of your current license.
 - A check or money order for \$4.25 payable to ARRL/VEC.

NOTE: All applicants will be required to provide photo proof of identification at time of exemination.

Handicapped applicants should notify the team contact issediately so that appropriate procedures can be coordinated.

For further information, please contact either Ron Deutsch NK&P 593-8352 or Peter LaFosse NOLA 495-4829.

Membership in PPRAA or the ARRL is not a requirement for taking the above test.

Talk-in will be on the 145.37/97 repeater.

VHF AND ABOVE BY RON DEUTSCH NKØP

THE PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER PEAKED ON AUGUST 12TH AND PROVIDED AMATEURS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK OUT TO 1000 MILES ON 144 MHZ AND 220 MHZ. THIS YEARS SHOWER WAS NOT AS GOOD AS SOME IN THE PAST BUT MANY NEW GRIDS AND STATES WERE WORKED,

THE ARRL UHF CONTEST ON AUGUST 2ND AND 3RD WENT OFF WELL THIS YEAR. TWO GRID EXPEDITIONS WENT OUT WITH 1296 MHZ, 432MHZ, AND 220 MHZ. A TOTAL OF EIBHT GRIDS IN EASTERN COLORADO WAS REPRESENTED! WE WERE ABLE TO WORK KFOM IN WICHITA, KANSAS ON 220 MHZ.

BEPTEMBER WAS A BUSY VHF MONTH WITH THE VHF QSO PARTY DN SEPT. 13TH AND 14TH. ALL BANDS 50 MHZ AND ABOVE COUNTED IN THIS CONTEST.

I HEARD SOME NEW VOICES ON UHF IN AUGUST, (NL7CO AND WB@PAN), BO ACTIVITY IS INCREASING LOCALLY! AL (NOCMW) AND I NENT UP TO PIKES PEAK AUGUST 15TH WITH A 10 WATT 1.2 SHI BTATION AND WORKED KIOD ON MT. CAPULIN, NM. (DM86) WITH 8-9 B9B SIGNALB. IT WABN'T LONG AGO WHEN 1.2 GHI WAB THOUGHT TO BE USELESS OVER 20 OR 30 MILES.

THE "MICROWAVE UPDATE CONFERENCE" WAS HELD IN ESTES PARK ON AUGUST 20-31. ON SEPT 26TH AND 27TH, THE 1ST ARRL 10GHZ CONTEST WAS HELD. DXCC ON 10 GHZ IS JUST 10 GRIDS AND ITS POSSIBLE 70 WORK 10 GRIDS FROM PIKES PEAK! (I THINK?!) ANYWAY ODDS ARE SOMEONE FROM COLORADO SPRINGS TRIED TO DO THAT!

73'S AND G U DN THE BANDS. RON NKOP

(Editor's note: This Beptember article got lost in my disk files, and I missed it last sonth. However, knowing the popularity of Ron's column, I thought you would like to see it this month, along with his October article.)

VHF & ABOVE NEWS by Ron Deutsch

September saw another record AURORA. A K index of 8 was recorded on September 17th with many reported QSOs across the northern states. I was in Vancouver, BC



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and although I could not make any contacts the visual observation was spectaculer! I heard that a faint purple glow was even visible here in Colorado Springs.

The Microwave Update in Estes Park was well attended and provided much gud info for the "ultra short wave enthusiast". I have a copy of the proceedings if any one would like to copy it.

The ORIONIDS meteor shower should peak on October 20th at 1641 GMT + OR - 12 HRS. for about 2 Days.

EME Perigee will be on October 7th with new moon on October 3rd.

The second leg of the 10 GHz contest will be held on the weekend of October 10th. Full details and rules are in June 1986 QST pg 84.

Check Page 65 of October QST to some of our local hams breaking new ground on 1296 MHz on top of pikes peak.

WA7KYM near Cheyenne, Wy. reported a Tropo opening early in the morning last week. He worked stations in lowa and eastern Vebraska for about one hour. If your up at local sunrise give a CQ on 144.200 you may be surprised!!

Thats it for this month. 73s C U on the bands...Ron NKOF

UNEARTHING THE BROUNDING MYTH by Ray Uberacken, AAPL

We have all replied to questions asked us in the past about RF on the mike, TVI, telephone interference, transmitter audio in tape recorders, etc. with "Do you have your equipment grounded?". Next you'll hear us give advice such as "Make sure you use at least number eight gauge wire. bonded all together in the shack and then a copper strap to a ground rod at least eight feet in the ground". Advice on grounding is probably second only to advice on how to tune your SWRs. The question is "Has anyone ever followed up to find out if all this free advice helps". I wonder what the excuses would sound like if we did. Hams hear this: "Any ground load more than a few inches long is useless for RF purposes". Why heck, that's all the long my antennas are. Don't get me wrong, a ground is still necessary, but for safety reasons, not RF.

. Sofers giving advice to someone about graunding, think. Ask yourself "What are you grounding?". "How will the ground eliminate just that signal?". What ground impedance will I need to achieve?". Wousely the first question that should be asked but never is, is "What's causing the problem?". I guess, in over thirty years in anatour radio, such of it spent as a member of TVI committees, I have yet to ese the first time grounding solved an interference problem. Sometimes it changes the conditions enough to eliminate the complaint, but did we just wolve the problem temporarily? Did you know that four inches of wire has a reactance of over 100 ohes at one hundred appahertz? Considering that tenths of an ohe is enough to cause problems in many applications, I wonder how many ohms we have in our grounding scheess. Have you ever bonded things together only to find that the problem got worse? Doesn't your equipment aiready have a ground lead via the third wire in the plug? It should! Will another ground wire cause a loop to exist that increases the problem?

Usually, the reason hams have RF on their mikes, audio rectification in tape recorders, and telephone interference, is not caused by their transmitters. The

usual reason is the antenna. No, not tho. SWRs either. It is because you are in close proximity to the antenna or, the feed ine is oriented so that the field from the entenna induces energy on the outside of the coax. I feel for those of you trying to operate your shacks in an apartment with the antenna in the attic a few feet above your heads. I know, I've been there. I was once known as "the voice of the closet". The only help I have for you is try VHF. Close proximity is defined as within a wavelength or so. Actually, that's only a rule of thumb. It depends on the conditions of the installation and, of course, the power. This is one area power is bad.

TVI is another problem. Since the problems are so veried, it is impossible to give many rules-of-thumb. Three that do come to mind are: high power doesn't help, nearness doesn't help, and grounding doesn't help. The one time I can think of that grounding eight help is when the proper design of the antenna such as longwire, should have included an earth ground. In that case, the tuner should have a lead that completes the antenna circuit to earth.

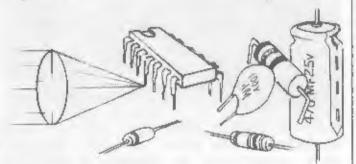
What does grounding do? How does it solve my problem? These questions get complicated when we realize that a piece of wire has both resistance Unfortunately, it is inductance. the inductance that hurts and thera no effective way to get rid of it. piece of conductor that has a length somewhat greater than its dismeter has inductance and that inductance will normally be much greater than the resistive part. Inside equipment, you would not think of running a twenty foot piece of wire to ground something so why outside the equipment.

Remember, a ground wire doesn't somehow magically eliminate harmonics from a transmitter or improve your poor operating techniques. It will save your life if a fault occurs in your equipment Use grounding for the right reason and may lightning not light up your life,



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> ANTENNAS By Chris Smith WBOTHU

In my last column I mentioned that the key to broadband antennas was in the concept of self-similarity. A selfsimilar structure is one that can be scaled by an arbitrary factor and still look the seas. For example, if you have the plans for a something, and you build it thinking that the dimensions are In feet, and your neighbor also builds it, thinking the dimensions are in inches, and you can't tall the difference when you're done, then it is self-mimilar.

Parhaps the simplest example of broadband antenna based on self-similarity is a dipole antenna made from two comes, aligned on a common axis, just touching tip-to-tip. I can't draw it for the column, but to give you an idea of what I am describing, it might look like this!

where the dashes are the common axis and the "X" is a cross section of the comes.

To be truely self-similar it would have to be infinitely large, but in practice. It can be made big enough to work satisfactorily at the lowest frequency of interest, and in general it will work as well or better at the higher frequencies. In the simplest case, the cones would be made of a sheet of conductor, but in practice a wire cage will work. In fact, even a flat outline of a cone, a triangle, will work to some extent- hence the "bowtie" antenna.

The detailed design of such an antenna involves such more than I've discussed. The effect of the ground must considered, the theoretical impedance of the structure calculated, the method of feed devised, and so on. If interest warrants, future columns might include all of the steps of design, culminating in a "PPRAA" broadband dipole design.

Orr, watch out!

Paul, KASVED, had two questions concerning antennas: How do you decide how long to cut them, and will the coak have any offect? There are simple (but unsatisfying) answers. The easiest way to find the length of an antenna is to use a formula appropriate for that design and then cut the wire about 5% long. Put the antenna up (maybe not all the way but get it off the ground) and trim it shorter an inch or two at a time (for an HF band antennal while measuring the SWR. You progress from longer to shorter because it is easier to shorten an antenna then make it longer.

The coax shouldn't have an effect on the entenne, but in most cases, it will, A coak will have an influence on an antenna whenever current is allowed to flow on the outside of it. To avoid this. the coas must either be isolated from the antenna, or symmetrically coupled to a symmetrical antenna. The first case might be a coax running inside a car to a feedthrough in the roof for a vertical, the second would be a coax running perpendicular to a dipole fed through a balun. In many less-than-ideal cases, good design practices keep the current on the outside of the coax to a small enough value that it can be ignored.

Mext months Can this antenna be saved? - A look at Don Hohisel's inverted wee.

NOVICE CLASS

The long-awaited PPRAA Novice Class will start on 15 October and run through 26 November. The classes will aget every Mednesday and Friday at 1900-2130 in the Civil Defense classroom under the Main Police Station at Kiowa and Nevada.

Contact: Don Rose, NL7CO at 390-4419.

FREE - FREE - FREE

EDUCATION

Having had my are twisted, my life threatened, and my HT held for ransom. I decided to work on the Education Committee. The Novice Class starts 15 Oct and we are looking at a Tech/Seneral Class in January 1987. If you would like to help, or have suggestions, contact me please.

Vy 73's - Don, NE7CO

ARES COMES THROUGH ASAIN

On 27 Sept 85, 14 local ARES members provided communications for a local diseaser exercise. Comments from the CSFD indicate that the only reliable communes from ARES.

Participants were:

KAUBU, NACYR, NL7CO - Site Communications

KE98, WOYNE, NOFPP - Packat Links

WASHNL, WASSKK, NØEPF, NØCYS
- Hospital Communications

KD5ZW, WB7THT, WB9UXR, WD6AMZ, KA2GHN
- Ambulance Communications

WOMEN - Base Communications.

Jeff Boyes - Runner.

Thanks to all the participants for an first-class public service project and for the excellent high-profile publicity for assteur radio.



Al NOCMW was the chief operator for the Grid Dx-pedition on August 2 with Jim, WATABB and Charles, ex-NDTDWJ to grids DM 77, DM 87 and DM 88.

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MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING submitted by Al NOCHW, secretary

The general meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association was held at Giuseppe's Old Depot Restaurant, Wednesday evening 10 September 1986. Meeting was called to order by the president tes KCBNE at 19:45. We had 31 members and 14 quests present. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in 8-Beat.

Committee Reports

Treasurer - Bud NØDDF: Previous balance of \$2521.40, income of \$225.75 with expenses of \$552,59, leaving a balance of \$2194.56.

Teller County Hill Blimb - Doc W#MET: Volunteers asked to contact Doc, or Jerry KEOBR who will be Net Control. Dates are 20-21 Gep.

Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC) - Bud NØDDF: Colorado will use khz separation on reseaters.

Deaf and Blind School - Jim WA9ABB: Novice will start soon after school classes starts.

0-Best - Phil VEIARC: Vote tonight on best articles in July, August and Bept.

Donation to Deaf and Blind School: Oak, KBROL donated the \$33.00 proceeds of his "giveaway" at the Woodland Park Swapfest to the Jim for the D&B School,

ARES - Jake NGCYR: A civil disaster exercise to be held on 27 Sep. Need 20 hams for ambulances, base stations at Memorial, St. Francis and Penroses hospitals.

Ringo Ranger antennas in place Memorial, Penrose Community, Fort Carmon, and Air Force Academy with Penrose Main pending.

Old Business:

yet responded ARRL has not to club on awards proposal.

Malcolm KE9S volunteered and was accepted to head the Pikes Peak Hill Climb next year.

Announcements:

Rick WB7THT announced that the Christmas Party will be at Iron Springs Chateau dinner theatre. Cost is \$16, per person. Contact him for more info.

A thank you was extended to Dak KØROL for the excellent hospitality at his cabin for the nice club picnic.

Much discussion occurred concerning the Mevice Classes, specifically whether they should be strictly novice or combined novice/tech/general. A series of notions resulted in letting the Education Committee run the classes as they saw fit. Box NLTCO volunteered to head up this committee.

Anser was that the Endura has been consulted.

Charles RCSTI announced a read railey in theat Chiff.

Prizes - Den KESAJ: Winners were:

KINDS Welt Complete DE Dock
MASSEE Jim Plug-in outlet center
KASPEE Commie \$10.Contennial cert.
MASSET Doc 1001 festeners kit
KASSED Paul \$10 Welker cert.

Program - Lauren KX#O: Lauren provided a very acusing and informative talk on hipower amplifiers, complete with a helpful handout. Nice Job Lauren!

Prizes for 0-Beat Articles

ist Club jacket George NBC1% 2nd Club hat Ron NK#P 3rd Club nametag Chris WB#DHU

Winner of the 2 meter HTs Congratulations to Doug N#HJT

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

The board meeting was held on Monday, 15 September 1986 at the home of Don, KEGGJ. Those in attendance were Les KCGNC, Al NGCMW, Jim WASABB, Bud NGDDF, Phil VEIARC, Malcolm KESS, Ken WASTTY, Oak KGROL and Don NL7CO.

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A motion was passed to give Malcom KE98 \$150.00 for expenses on next years Pikes Peak Hill Climb. A motion passed not to have prizes for articles in 6-Beat. A motion was passed to give two sets of the ARRL Library collection to the Colorado Springs Public Library. A motion was passed to purchase 20 "Tune in the Norld" books to sell to Novice Class attendees. Don NL7CO was authorized to buy the "Tune in the World" slide kit, not to exceed \$100.00. (note: cost was \$25.00). A motion was passed to authorized \$25.00 for flyers, etc. to get the word out on the novice classes.

A new place for the Sat, morning breakfast was suggested: the Bavarian Inn. Majority were happy with current location. No action taken. Jim WAFABB volunteered to head next years swapfest and was accepted. The swapfest will be held the 3rd weekend in May.

Home brew night will be in January. Prizes will be \$20.00, \$10.00 and \$5.00.

The board nominated the following for club election at October meeting, with nominations also being accepted from the floors Pres. Don KESSJ, Vice Pres. Don NL7CO, secretary Al NGCHW, treasurer NSDDF, board members Dak KSROL and Ron NKSP.

The next meeting of the board will be at the home of Jim WAPABB on 13 October 1986. The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.



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